



w h i s p e r    o f  
a s e c r e t

Déanta

GLCD  
1173

whisper of a secret

Déanta



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2. Willie and Mary 4:06
3. The Usual Suspects 4:25
4. Paddy and the Bandit 5:37
5. Lone Shanakyle 5:48
6. Waltz of the White Lilies 5:40

7. At the Crossroads 4:12
8. The Blacksmith 3:05
9. Cogair Rúin 3:52
10. The Druid's Mountain 4:33
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File Under: Celtic/Ireland

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## 1. Two Days to Go

Two Days to Go (Diarmaid Moynihan)  
Beaujolais in Boston (Kate O'Brien/Deirdre Havlin)  
Jimmy's Trip to Clonmel (Deirdre Havlin)

This set of three reels opens with one composed by Diarmaid Moynihan, a fine uilleann piper and whistle player from Cork. It provided him with welcome stress relief two days before his final university exams. Deirdre and Katie got inspiration for the title of the second tune from the copious consumption of a deep red liquid while on tour in the US. The final reel commemorates one of Deirdre's happiest memories travelling to an All-Ireland Fleadh Cheoil with her father Jimmy. She dedicates it to her father and mother.

## 2. Willie and Mary

(traditional)

Mary was introduced to this song from the English folk tradition by John Moulden, an avid song collector from Coleraine, County Derry. It originates from one of the best books of Irish, Scottish, and English songs ever to come out of North America—Carrie Grover's *A Heritage of Songs* (Philadelphia, 1973).

This was a common song on English ballad sheets, where it was called *Little Mary the Sailor's Bride* and was known in Ulster but not, it seems, elsewhere in Ireland.

As Willie and Mary stood by the seaside  
A long farewell for to take  
Says Mary to Willie, "If you go away  
I'm afraid my poor heart it will break."  
"Oh, don't be afraid, dearest Mary," he said  
As he clasped his fond maid to his side  
"In my absence don't mourn, for when I return  
I will make you, sweet Mary, my bride."

Seven long years had passed and no word at last  
Mary stood by her own cottage door  
A beggar came by with a patch on his eye  
Bedraggled and ragged and tore  
"Your charity, fair maid, bestow upon me  
Your fortune I'll tell you beside.  
Your lad which you mourn will never return  
To make little Mary his bride."

She slipped and she started, saying "All that I have  
It's freely to you I will give  
If you tell me true what I now ask of you  
Is my Willie dead or alive?"  
"He's living," says he, "though in sad poverty  
And shipwrecked he has been beside.  
When he'd money untold and pockets of gold  
He'd have made little Mary his bride."

"Then if he is dead, no other I'll wed  
No other I'll have by my side  
In riches though rolled, or covered with gold  
He'd have made his own Mary his bride."  
Then the patch of his eye the old beggar let fly  
His old coat and crutches beside  
And in sailor's blue clothes and with cheeks like  
a rose  
It was Willie who stood by her side.

"Oh, don't be afraid, dearest Mary," he said  
"It was only your faith that I tried.  
To the church we'll away at the break of the day  
And I'll make little Mary my bride."

## 6. Waltz of the White Lilies

(Kate O'Brien)

This waltz was written by Katie for the journey up the aisle on her wedding day. For Paul.

## 7. At the Crossroads

Farewell to Hunchoon (Rosie Mulholland)  
The Whinny Hill (Rosie Mulholland)

Rosie has married a fine fiddler from Grane More, County Armagh, and left her townland near Portglenone, County Antrim to live there. This set marks a significant period of her life.

## 8. The Blacksmith

(traditional)

Another song from the English folk song tradition, also known as *Our captain calls all hands and fighting for Strangers*. Andy Irvine is probably solely responsible for its current popularity in Ireland.

A blacksmith courted me, nine months or better  
He bravely won my heart, wrote me a letter  
With his hammer in his hand, he looked quite clever  
And if I was with my love, I'd live forever

But where is my love gone, with his cheeks like roses  
And his good black billycock on, all crowned with  
primroses  
I'm afraid the scorching sun will shine and burn his  
beauty  
And if I was with my love, I'd do my duty

Strange news has come to town, strange news is  
carried  
Strange news flies up and down, that my love he's  
married  
I wish them both much joy though they can't hear me  
And may God reward them well for the slighting  
of me

Don't you remember well when you lay beside me  
And you said you'd marry me and not deny me  
If I said I'd marry you, it was only for to try you  
But bring your witness love, and I'll not deny you

Oh witness have I none, save God almighty  
And may he reward you well, for the slighting of me  
Her lips grew pale and wan, it made her poor heart  
tremble  
To think she loved a one and he proved deceitful

## 9. Cogair Rúin

(Eoghan O'Brien)

The Gaelic title of this piece translates as *A Whisper of a Secret*. Eoghan & Kate dedicate this air to their father Colm, a lifelong lover and supporter of Irish music.

## 10. The Druid's Mountain

The Druid's Spell (Clódagh Warnock)  
The Misty Mountain (Clódagh Warnock)

Cló dedicates these jigs to Paulie and Mo for their inspiration and craic.

(Andy M. Stewart)

### 3. The Usual Suspects

The Chimer (Deirdre Havlin/Kate O'Brien)  
 Farewell to Sandy (Deirdre Havlin/Eoghan O'Brien)  
 The Usual Suspects (Eoghan O'Brien)

These three jigs were all penned by members of the band. The second one is a tribute to Sandy McAleese.

### 4. Paddy and the Bandit

Paddy's in Chicago (Eoghan O'Brien)  
 The Ceili Bandit (Clódagh Warnock/Eoghan O'Brien)

These two unusual tunes were nicknamed "The Line Dance" after a few members of the audience spontaneously began line dancing at a gig in Derry. We do not recommend you try this at home.

### 5. Lone Shanakyle

(traditional)

Shanakyle probably originates from the Gaelic *sean cill* meaning "old church." It is the site of a graveyard outside Kiltrush, County Clare, where famine victims were buried during the nineteenth century and especially during the great famine of 1845-1852. Thirty nine hundred people died in the Kiltrush workhouse in the years 1847-1849. The song was written by Thomas Madigan, a poet local to Kiltrush, probably in the 1860s. The air is a relative of *An Paistin Fionn*.

Far, far from the isle of the holy and grand  
 Where wild oxen fatten and brave men are banned  
 All lonely and lone in a far distant land  
 Do I wander and pine for poor Éireann

Chorus:

Lonely and sad I roam, far from my native  
 (island) home  
 Where the wild waves surging foam, headlands  
 appearing  
 Clouded in silver spray, flashing through heaven's  
 bright ray  
 For thy glory and pride, lovely Éireann

Sweet, sweet Inis Cathaigh, the sacred, the blessed  
 A fit place for a saint or a warrior's rest  
 Your sentinel towers left each storm repressed  
 Your mourning waves wait for my Éireann

There is nothing now left, holy isle, but thy name  
 The ruin of thy glory, thy grandeur, thy fame  
 For foreign laws see thy sadness and pain  
 That now cause thy anguish, my Éireann

Chorus

How dearly I longed for to wander once more  
 To the loved ones I left at my old cabin door  
 My blessings I'd given a thousand times o'er  
 And a prayer and a tear for poor Éireann

Sad, sad is my fate in this weary exile  
 Dark, dark is the night cloud o'er lone Shanakyle  
 Where the murdered sleep silently pile upon pile  
 In the coffinless graves of poor Éireann

Chorus

Mary learned this song from singer and uilleann piper Brendan Monaghan, who hails from Bannbridge, County Down. The song was composed by Scottish singer/songwriter Andy M. Stewart.

Chorus:

Where are you tonight, I wonder  
 And where will you be tonight when I cry  
 Will sleep to you come easy, though alone I can  
 slumber  
 Or will you welcome in the morning at another  
 one's side

How easy for you the years slip under  
 And left me a shadow the sun can't dispel  
 I have built for you a tower of love and admiration  
 I see you so high I cannot reach myself

Chorus

I look through my window at the world filled with  
 strangers  
 The face in the mirror is the one face I know  
 You have taken all that's in me, though my heart is  
 in no danger  
 My heart is in no danger, but I'd still like to know

Chorus

If there's a silence, then it can be broken  
 If there beats a pure heart, to her I will go  
 And time will work its healing, and the spirit will  
 grow stronger  
 But oh, in the meantime, I'd still like to know

Chorus

### 12. Scarta Glen Road

The Scarta Glen Road (traditional)  
 Sean Leac (Kate O'Brien/Paul McSherry)  
 The King of the Clans (traditional)  
 Marian's Favourite (Marian Egan)

Two of these reels are newly composed and two others are traditional. Sean leac (Old Flagstone) is the name of a rock protruding into the Atlantic Ocean from the coast at Melmore Point, County Donegal. We learned the final tune from the playing of the O'Loughlin family from Swatragh, County Derry. It was composed by Marian Egan from Kilkelly, County Mayo.

DÉANTA are:

Mary Dillon  
vocals

Deirdre Havlin  
flute and whistles

Rosie Mulholland  
keyboards and fiddle

Eoghan O'Brien  
harp and guitar

Kate O'Brien  
fiddle

Clódagh Warnock  
bouzouki, fiddle, and bodhrán

Guest Musicians:

Neil Martin  
cello, uilleann pipes, and additional keyboards

Richie Buckley  
saxophone

Mario N'Goma  
percussion

Produced by:  
Neil Martin  
Recorded and mixed at:  
Homestead Studios,  
Randalstown, N. Ireland, 1996

Engineered by:  
Shaun Wallace  
Mixed by:  
Neil Martin, Shaun Wallace, and Eoghan  
O'Brien

*The Blacksmith* mixed by:  
Neil Martin, Mary Dillon, and Jimmy Lyons  
Cover Photograph:

Tod Bryant  
Band Photograph:

Bobby Hanvey  
Design by:  
The Wyant Simboli Group, Inc.

Special thanks to:  
Neil, Mudd, Richie, and Mario

Also thanks to:  
John Moulden, Brendan Monaghan, Johnny  
Ramsey, Seamus O'Kane, Gerry Anderson,  
Eddie Friel, Mark Dougherty, Thomas Smyth,  
Mark Lavery, Paul McGlinchey, Briege  
Murphy, J. Colm O'Brien, Páraic O'Brien,  
Paul McSherry, Jimmy & Frances Havlin, Jim  
and Rosh Warnock, John Kennedy,  
Máirtín Quinn, and Cathal Ó Searcaigh.

For further information, please contact:  
DÉANTA  
77 Main Street  
Portglenone, County Antrim BT44 8HR  
N. Ireland  
tel: (44) 01266 821-333  
fax: (44) 01266 822-181

For a free copy of the Green Linnet catalog, please  
return the enclosed postcard or write to:  
Green Linnet Records  
43 Beaver Brook Road,  
Danbury, CT 06810 USA

For catalogs, orders, and consumer information:  
1.800.468.6644

1.203.730.0333  
fax: 1.203.778.4443  
e-mail: [grnlinnet@aol.com](mailto:grnlinnet@aol.com)  
web: <http://www.greenlinnet.com>

All sets arranged by DÉANTA, except #5 and #11 arranged by  
DÉANTA/Neil Martin  
1(b) & (c), 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, and 12(b) published by Green Linnet  
Music/ASCAP  
2, 5, 8, 12(a) & (c) traditional, arranged by DÉANTA, published  
by Green Linnet Music/ASCAP  
1(a) published by IMRO/MCPS  
11 published by Strathmore Music & Film Services

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